Demand for copper

400. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for copper has come down recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost demand of copper both in domestic and foreign markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of India's thrust on power, infrastructure and automobiles sectors, reduction of import duty on finished copper products and copper concentrate have increased the consumption of copper in domestic market.

Scheme for minority districts

401. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a scheme worth Rs. 3,780 crores for 90 minority concentrated districts;

(b) if so, the details and salient features of the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken to enforce and implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) A multi-sectoral development programme for 90 minority concentration districts has been formulated and is awaiting approval. The programme has been designed to address the 'development deficits' mainly on improving the socio-economic and basic amenities parameters of these districts.

Projects for Minorities

402. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up an expert panel consisting of Union Ministries and States on effective implementation of its aggressive minority welfare agenda as identified by the 15 point programme on Sachar Committee's suggestion on muslim backwardness;

(b) if so, the steps the panel has taken so far;

(c) whether this panel would evolve the extent of development benefits acquiring to socio-religious communities for welfare programmes;

(d) if so, whether this panel has already received the report about implementation by the Central Committees and States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise. However, the Government has announced in June 2006, the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities. It envisages regular monitoring at the Central level, once in six months, by a Committee of Secretaries and then by the Cabinet. A close monitoring mechanism has also been established in a majority of the States/UTs.

Scholarship scheme for minority students

403. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount under the merit-cum-means based scholarship scheme has been given to the minority students during the last three years, year-wise, community-wise and State-wise;

(b) when the money is released during a year, in the begining of the year or through the year;

(c) what is the process of getting these scholarships;

(d) whether sufficient publicity has been given to these scholarships so that students could get the benefits of the same; and

(e) if so, the means adopted to popularize the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) The scheme of merit-cum means based scholarship to students belonging to minority communities has been launched only in 2007-08. The State/UT-wise and community-wise details as on date, are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (e) The details of the scheme are available on the website *www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.* It has been publicised widely by the Ministry of Minority Affairs and also by State Governments/UT administrations. Fifty top institutions listed in the scheme were informed separately. The scholarship, which includes course fee and maintenance allowance, is released together to the State/UT concerned, for disbursement to the institutes and students concerned.

Statement

Status of State/UT-wise and community-wise distribution of scholarship under the scheme of merit-cum means based scholarship to students belonging to the minority communities

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Scholarships sanctioned						Total amount released (Rs. in crore)
		Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Parsi	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	**Karnataka**	678	105	2	Nil	Nil	785	2.22
2.	**Orissa**	70	9	Nil	2	Nil	81	0.22
3.	**Kerala**	778	627	Nil	Nil	Nil	1405	3.11
4.	**Tamil Nadu**	361	392	Nil	Nil	Nil	753	2.02
5.	**Bihar**	1444	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1444	3.36